

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the amendments to the claims overcome all of the Section 112 rejections, as the main claim now requires the presence of a binding agent, an oxidizing agent and a nitrogen free organic fuel.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims based on either Wehrli, Hamilton and Cioffe, as the present claims require that the gas charge be nitrogen free. Wehrli includes a nitrate-containing oxidation agent (see abstract). Hamilton teaches the use of nitrates, nitrites and ammonium chlorite as oxidizers (see col. 2, lines 30-40). Cioffe includes an organic or inorganic nitrate-containing oxidizing agent (see, e.g., abstract, col. 1, line 63 and col. 2, lines 5-7). None of the cited references teach or suggest a nitrogen-free gas charge as presently claimed.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed all claims are allowable.

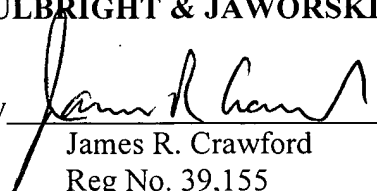
Furthermore, since the generic claims are believed to be allowable, examination of this application to include additional species is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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